

Log Cabin,
Terrytown, Pennsylvania.
Bradford County

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Pennsylvania
Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
Ralph W. Lear, District Officer
311-312 Dime Bank Bldg., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

LOG CABIN
Terrytown, Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner

Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Welles.

Date of Erection

1806.

Builder

Captain Jonathan Terry.

Present Condition

Excellent. Some changes on interior of house.
Little departure from original state.

Number of Stories

Two.

Materials of Construction

Log walls, modern wood shingle roof, wood
floors, field stone chimney and fireplaces.

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LOG CABIN

Terrytown, Bradford County, Pennsylvania.

The Township of Terrytown was organized in 1857. Terrytown is a pleasant little village situated on the west side of the river about two miles above the mouth of Wyalusing Creek.

Captain Jonathan Terry was the first permanent settler. He was born in Connecticut in June, 1758. The greater part of his early life was spent in the Wyoming Valley. He moved up the river from Wyoming Valley, in 1786 to Wyalusing, where he remained for one year. In 1787, he built a house at Terrytown and moved into it, thus becoming the founder of the village. He was a typical pioneer, and noted for his genial nature and social qualities of a high order.

In 1806, he constructed his "mansion in the wilds", after having purchased a tract of six hundred acres, which he occupied during his life. The log cabin which he constructed is yet standing and is in an excellent state of preservation. In early times, this was the election place, when citizens came from the wilderness to vote. Jonathan Terry was commissioned a Justice in 1812, and held the office until 1821, when he resigned. During his term, he was noted for his happy faculty of persuading litigants to settle their difficulties amicably.

On Terry's farm, were erected the first grist mill, saw mill, tannery and distillery. He also owned and operated the first ferry.

A description of the house as it appeared in 1878 follows: 'It is a large two-story hewn log house, with a huge chimney in the center of it, a small portico in front, and in early times, had large double doors about three inches thick. It is the oldest house in the village and well merits the name of "The Old Terry Castle"!'

The house is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Welles, who are making every possible effort to restore the house to its original condition, and have succeeded to a great extent.

The small portico was removed sometime after 1906 when the house was 100 years old. Whether or not, this portico was built on originally, is not definitely known but more probably, it was not.

Originally, there were double doors, at the south or main entrance to the Log Cabin. One of these doors has since been removed, and at present, one enters a small hall, with the original stairs leading to the second floor. There is a door on the landing which is used to take the furniture up stairs. This is original. To the right of the hall, is what was originally the kitchen, but is now known as the dining room. There is a very large fireplace, which is still in use for cooking. This is constructed entirely of stone. The original cranes and other fixtures have disappeared, but the cranes and andirons have been replaced and appear (as nearly as possible) similar to what might have been there originally. The original hooks for the cranes are still in place. About the fireplace, are old candle molds, scoops, bellows, powder horns, and a pair of oxen's horn coverings. The room is now entirely furnished in antiques, as is the entire house.

There are thick hand-hewn beams, supporting the second floor which are exposed in the kitchen. These have been blackened by smoke. One log was used for all the ceiling beams. They are not spliced. There is a tradition in the neighborhood, that it took one man six months, working ten or twelve hours a day, to make these beams. The floors are modern, as are all the floors on the first floor. The original window frames have been replaced by replicas of the originals, as they had deteriorated. The windows have small lights.

There is one interesting antique in the original kitchen; a tavern table, said to be of Pennsylvania Dutch development, although this one is a Cape Cod original. The table when opened, forms a chair with the table top, forming a wide, fan-like back. It was used as a sort of screen from drafts, when drawn before the fireplace.

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The kitchen was somewhat larger, originally, than it is now, as a very small part of it has been used to make a modern kitchen.

To the left of the entrance hall, is the living room. This was originally a parlor and a parlor bedroom. The partition has been removed, however, and it is now one large room; the length of the house. When Mr. Welles took possession of the house, he found the walls in this room, had been lathed and plastered. Most of the rooms were covered with sand plined board and covered with wall paper. Seventeen layers of wall paper were removed. This covering apparently, was used to make the house as warm and comfortable as possible. Since this has been removed, the beams and log walls are exposed. The chinkings in the logs were covered with clay to keep the house warm. Cement is now used.

The fireplace in this room is not quite as large as that in the kitchen. It has a native stone facing. Originally, there was no hearth, as there is now.

From the living room, is a door, leading to what is now known as the den. This was originally, the dining-room. It is somewhat smaller than either of the other two rooms. Originally, there was a small lean-to, used as a bed space, in this room, but this has been removed, and now forms an alcove. Even the lean-to was probably an addition to the original plan of the house. This room has a small fireplace. The corner stone of the house was used to fashion part of the hearth, and under this, Mr. Welles has placed a penny of the year, 1929, an arrow head, a fashion book, and a parchment paper, stating the names of the workmen and the owner's names, so that in future times, some idea of the present times, may be had. One piece of stone is used for the shelf. There were cupboards on either side of the mantel, but these were so deteriorated, that they were removed, but they have been faithfully restored by the new owner. Here, too, the beams are exposed.

There were five bedrooms on the second floor, originally, but at present, there are only three, and a bath. There is but one fireplace on this floor. It is in the back bedroom, and is constructed of native stone, with a modern wood mantel.

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From the stairway, one enters a hall, which connects the bedrooms. The partitions in the hall are original, except for the ones connecting the bath with the hall. There is a modern casement window in the hall. All floors are random widths, and are original.

There is a modern chimney and two modern closets on the second floor. The rest of the second floor is original.

Historic Material Obtained from: Mrs. Charles F. Welles; from: "History of Bradford County," Craft.
from: "History and Geography of Bradford County" published by Bradford County Historical Society.

Author...

Approved...

Date...

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